

CLAIMS:

1. An optical recording medium having a visible
5 pattern in a read-only area of a disk, the visible
pattern being produced making use of change in
reflectance of the disk caused by change in product
 $W \cdot L$ of a width (W) and a length (L) of an nT pit
formed in the read-only area, where n denotes a
10 natural number and T denotes clock time.

15 2. The optical recording medium of claim 1, wherein
the visible pattern is a concentric pattern.

20 3. The optical recording medium of claim 1, wherein
the visible pattern is a radial pattern.

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4. The optical recording medium of claim 1, wherein the visible pattern is a character or symbol pattern.

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5. The optical recording medium according to any one of claim 1 through claim 4, wherein the disk has a recordable area, in addition to the read-only area.

15 6. The optical recording medium of claim 1, wherein the read-only area is divided into a plurality of regions, and at least one of the width and the length of the nT pit are variable such that the product $W \cdot L$ varies among the regions.

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7. The optical recording medium of claim 1, wherein the read-only area is divided into a plurality of

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regions, and the length of the nT pit varies among the regions, each of the regions having a different value of a signal reproduction characteristic, in addition to a different value of the product $W*L$.

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8. An optical recording medium comprising:

10 a substrate having a read-only area in which pits are formed such that a product $W*L$ of a width (W) and a length (L) of an nT pit varies according to a prescribed manner, where n denotes a natural number and T denotes clock time.

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9. The optical recording medium of claim 8, wherein
20 the substrate is of a disk type, and the product $W*L$ of the nT pit varies in the radius direction of the disk.

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10. The optical recording medium of claim 8 or 9,
wherein the product $W \cdot L$ of the nT pit varies
continuously.

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11. The optical recording medium of claim 8, wherein
10 the substrate is of a disk type, and the product $W \cdot L$
of the nT pit varies in the circumferential direction
of the disk.

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12. The optical recording medium of claim 8 or 11,
wherein the product $W \cdot L$ of the nT pit varies
discontinuously.

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13. The optical recording medium of claim 8, wherein
25 a reflectance of the read-only area varies along with

change in the product $W*L$, thereby producing a visible pattern in the read-only area.

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14. The optical recording medium of claim 8, further comprising a recording layer formed over the substrate, the recording layer being made of a
10 pigment liquid material.

15 15. The optical recording medium of claim 14, further comprising a reflecting layer formed over the recording layer.

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16. A method of fabricating an optical recording medium comprising the steps of:

preparing a stamper having a prescribed pit
25 pattern; and

forming a disk using the stamper, the disk having the pit pattern in a prescribed area in which a product $W \cdot L$ of a width (W) and a length (L) of an nT pit varies, where n is a natural number and T denotes
5 clock time.

10 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the stamper preparing step includes a step of forming the pit pattern with a variable length of the nT pit in the stamper.

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18. The method of claim 17, wherein the pit pattern forming step includes a laser exposure step of
20 delineating the pit pattern, while changing an exposure duty of the nT pit.

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19. The method of claim 17, wherein the pit pattern is formed in the stamper such that the produce $W \cdot L$ of the nT pit varies discontinuously.

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20. The method of claim 16, wherein the stamper preparing step includes a step of forming the pit pattern with a variable width of the nT pit in the stamper.

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21. The method of claim 20, wherein the pattern forming step includes a laser exposure step of delineating the pit pattern, while changing an exposure power.

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22. The method of claim 20, wherein the pit pattern of the stamper is formed such that the product $W \cdot L$ of

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the nT pit varies continuously.

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23. A stamper used to fabricate a substrate of an optical recording medium, wherein the stamper has a prescribed pit pattern in at least a portion thereof, the pit pattern being formed such that a product $W \cdot L$ of a width and a length of an nT pit forming the pit pattern varies, where n is a natural number and T denotes clock time.

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24. The stamper of claim 23, wherein the stamper is used to fabricate a disk-type optical recording medium, and the product $W \cdot L$ of the nT pit varies in a radial direction.

25 25. The stamper of claim 23 or claim 24, wherein the

product $W \cdot L$ of the nT pit varies continuously.

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26. The stamper of claim 23, wherein the stamper is used to fabricate a disk-type optical recording medium, and the product $W \cdot L$ of the nT pit varies in a circumferential direction.

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27. The stamper of claim 23 or 26, wherein the
15 product $W \cdot L$ of the nT pit varies discontinuously.